

Message Text

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EA/EX - MR. CHAMPAGNE (PHONE)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS STATE 126096

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OGEN, JA

SUBJECT: OPRED - TREASURY/CUSTOMS REQUEST TO INCREASE
FOREIGN NATIONAL AUTHORIZATION IN TOKYO

1. IN A LETTER DATED JUNE 3, TREASURY DEPARTMENT HAS REQUESTED AN INCREASE IN THE FOREIGN NATIONAL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CUSTOMS ATTACHE OFFICE IN TOKYO. EXCERPT FROM LETTER FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: AT THE PRESENT TIME THE AUTHORIZED OPRED FOREIGN NATIONAL STRENGTH FOR THE OFFICE OF THE CUSTOMS ATTACHE, TOKYO, JAPAN, IS THREE EMPLOYEES. APPARENTLY THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT OR CONFUSION, POSSIBLY AT THE TIME TRANSFERS TO DEA WERE TAKING PLACE, THE NUMBER OF OPRED FOREIGN NATIONAL POSITIONS AUTHORIZED WAS REDUCED FROM FIVE TO THREE (WHICH IS TWO LESS THAN THE NUMBER OF SUCH EMPLOYEES CUSTOMS PRESENTLY HAS ON BOARD). THE NATURE OF CUSTOMS' OPERATIONS IN JAPAN AND THROUGHOUT THE FAR EAST PLACES A SEVERE BURDEN ON THE TOKYO OFFICE. AT TIMES THE SITUATION HAS DICTATED THE NEED TO SEND EMPLOYEES FROM OTHER CUSTOMS OFFICES THERE ON TDY FOR SHORT PERIODS OF TIME. THE FUNCTIONS OF THE TOKYO OFFICE ARE CONSTANTLY

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EXPANDING AND THE NEED TO AT LEAST MAINTAIN THE PRESENT

SUPPORT STAFF IS UNQUESTIONED. SINCE THE FIVE FOREIGN NATIONALS PRESENTLY SERVING THE CUSTOMS ATTACHE OFFICE IN

TOKYO HAVE BEEN WITH CUSTOMS SINCE 1952, 1961, 1968, 1971 AND 1972 RESPECTIVELY, IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE IMPRUDENT AT BEST TO TAKE ANY STEPS TO SEPARATE ANY ONE OF THEM AT THIS TIME. CONSIDERING THE ABOVE, IT IS RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED THAT THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN NATIONAL POSITIONS AUTHORIZED FOR THE OFFICE OF THE CUSTOMS ATTACHE, TOKYO, JAPAN, BE INCREASED FROM THREE TO FIVE. END QUOTE

2. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON THIS REQUEST. SISCO

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